

N E W S R E L E A S E

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\$1.2M Workforce Investment Act Funds Will Aid Low Income and Disadvantaged in Bay Area Transition into Healthcare and Life Sciences Careers

SACRAMENTO – California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary Victoria Bradshaw today announced the availability of \$1.2 million in federal Workforce Investment Act funds to support the workforce partnership and innovation grant program of the Bay Area Workforce Funding Collaborative (BAWFC).

The investment of Workforce Investment Act funds will be leveraged with approximately \$1.6 million raised by the BAWFC from private philanthropic foundations.

“This grant program will enable low income or disadvantaged adults and youth transition into high wage, high demand occupations in the healthcare and life sciences industries,” said Bradshaw. “In addition, partnering with the Bay Area Workforce Funding Collaborative, a nationally recognized model of public/private collaboration that supports innovative workforce initiatives, helps tremendously.”

The BAWFC was created as a response to an increasingly wide skills gap that leaves employers unable to meet their workforce needs, and laid-off and unskilled workers unable to secure higher-wage employment. The BAWFC addresses the needs of these dual customers by aligning and leveraging public and philanthropic funds for strategic investments to improve the workforce training system in the Bay Area.

The Collaborative is a partnership of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency’s Employment Development Department; the San Francisco Foundation; Walter and Elise Haas Fund; Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund; Annie E. Casey Foundation; Walter S. Johnson Foundation; Levi Strauss Foundation; the California Endowment; Y & H Soda Foundation; the Women’s Foundation of California; and Kaiser Permanente Northern California Region.

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The BAWFC has issued a Solicitation for Proposals for two types of grants:

- **Workforce Partnership grants** to support and enhance education, training, and job placement in the healthcare and life sciences sectors for low income or disadvantaged adults and transition-age youth ages 18 to 24.
- **Innovation grants** to support research, planning, and pilot projects that promote solutions to workforce challenges in the healthcare and life sciences sectors.

Proposals must be received by the San Francisco Foundation by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 27, 2006.

Further information regarding this Solicitation for Proposals, eligibility, and criteria for selection can be found on the San Francisco Foundation's Web site at:

www.sff.org/grantmaking/program_neighborhood.html

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